

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

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DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

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ATTACHMENT E

July 12, 2007

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

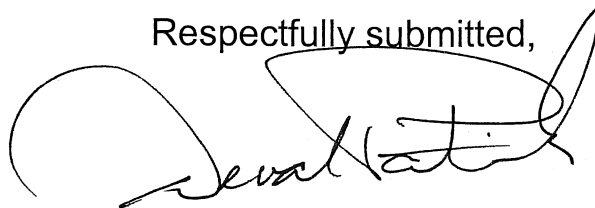
Pursuant to Article LVI, as amended by Article XC, Section 3 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I am returning to you for amendment Section 53 of "An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2008 for the Maintenance of the Departments, Boards, Commissions, Institutions and Certain Activities of the Commonwealth, for Interest, Sinking Fund and Serial Bond Requirements and for Certain Permanent Improvements."

Section 53 directs the Comptroller to transfer \$150 million to the General Fund from the Health Care Security Trust Fund. I support the purpose of this section, which is to ensure that the General Fund balance is adequate to meet the fiscal year 2008 appropriations made in this bill.

However, because of the appropriation vetoes and reductions that I have made today, the amount of this transfer may be reduced to \$111,456,757. This reduction has the additional benefit of increasing the balance in the Health Care Security Trust Fund that Section 54 will transfer to the new State Employee Benefits Trust Fund, to begin funding the Commonwealth's substantial liability for our retirees' health care expenses.

Therefore, I recommend that Section 53 be amended by striking out the figure "\$150,000,000" and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- "\$111,456,757".

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Seval Hattik", written over the text "Respectfully submitted,". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.